



289515

Friday April 30, 1982

FM: USEPA, REGION V, CHICAGO, IL

TO: USCG DISTRICT NINE
DOSM WASHINGTON, DC
NRC, WASHINGTON, DC

POLREP 1

SUB: STEEL CONTAINER CORPORATION FIRE, IN HAMMOND, IN

A. SITUATION:

1. STEEL CONTAINER CORP. (D/B/A CALUMET CONTAINERS IS A DRUM AND 5 GALLON PAILS RECYCLING PLANT.
2. ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 1982 AT ABOUT 3:15P.M. A FIRE BROKE OUT AND DESTROYED THE PLANT COMPLETELY.
3. RESIDENTS IN THE NEARBY TRAILERS PARK WERE EVACUATED UNTIL THE FIRE WAS PUT OUT AT 10:00P.M.
4. RUN OFF WATER FROM THE FIRE FIGHTING ACTIVITY COULD CONTAIN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. THIS IS A THREAT TO NEARBY RESIDENTS AND WOLF LAKE WHICH IS LESS THAN 100 YDS. AWAY.
5. ROOF OF BUILDING CAVED IN AND MOST OF THE STEEL WALLS ARE BACKLED.
6. ABOUT 69 TRAILERS WERE ON THE SITE THEY CONTAINED EMPTY DRUMS AND PAILS, AS WELL AS SOLIDS, AND ORGANIC LIQUIDS AND ADHESIVES.

B. ACTION:

1. OWNER ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY; BUT HE HAD FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY UNDER SECTION 11 AND MAY NOT GO THROUGH WITH THE REQUIRED CLEANUP. 0 *4/24 mnd*
2. A BERM HAS BEEN BUILT TO CONTAIN ANY RUNOFF OR RAIN WATER ON THE SITE.
3. THE BUILDING IS BEING DEMOLISHED.
4. THE RUNOFF WATER AND SLUDGES ARE BEING ANALYSES.
5. A DEMAND LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO THE OWNER NOT TO REMOVE ANY CHEMICALS OR POLLUTED DRUMS AND PAILS OFF THE SITE AND TO CLEAN UP ACCORDING TO CERCLA REQUIREMENTS. AFTER ANALYTICAL RESULTS ARE IN.

C. PLAN: *4/27 written*

1. WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING IS DEEMED SAFE SLUDGES IN PITS AND DRUMS WILL BE SAMPLED AND ANALYZED.
2. A 10 POINT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO HANS CRUMP TO EFFECT A FEDERAL CLEANUP ACTION IF THE OWNER REFUSES TO GO ON WITH OUR DEMAND LETTER.
3. AN RRT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 10:30A.M. ON MONDAY MAY 3, 1982 AT HAMMOND CITY HALL, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 5925 CALUMET AVE. HAMMOND, INDIANA. FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIANA AND ILLINOIS, AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. THE PURPOSE IS TO CHART A COMMON COURSE OF ACTION.

GEORGE H. MADANY, OSC, USEPA, REGION V, CHICAGO, IL